TO THE

PARLIAMENT

OF THE

COMMON-WEALTH

OF

ENGLAND,

Now sitting at

WESTMINSTER.

A Representation of the Outrages and Cruelties acted upon the servants of Christ, at two Meetings at *Sabridgworth* in *Hartford-shire*.

LONDON,
Printed for *Thomas Simmons*, at the Bull and Mouth near Aldersgate, 1659.

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WHile ye declare for a Common-wealth, and the juſt Liberties of all perſons as men and Chriſtians; and while other people in the Nation (though enemies to ſuch a Government) have freedom to worſhip after their manner; the true friends of Chriſt (that cannot be enemies to good Government) many of whom have ventured their lives in the late War, for the Rights and Liberties of the people, being awakened to Worſhip the Lord in Spirit and Truth, are not onely ſlandered and reviled with all manner of evil ſayings, but moſt cruelly buffeted, beaten and ſtoned to the ſhedding of their blood, in ſeveral dark places of the Land, which are full of the habitations of cruelty, as if their lives were at the mercy of the worſt of men, and they were onely to be uſed as ſheep for the ſlaughter; An inſtance whereof we ſhall preſent you with (in ſtead of many) what was acted in two ſeveral Meetings at *Sabridgmarth* in *Hartford-ſhire*, the third and one and thirtieth of the fifth Month, on the third day a multitude of the ſons of *Belial* boys and men ſtormed the houſe wherein Gods people were met together in meekneſs and fear, with ſtones, dirt and other things of offence, and breaking in upon them did very much abuſe them, eſpecially as they went away, no Officer appearing to keep the Peace, and endeavour to ſuppreſs the tumult, though two Conſtables and a Church-warden lived hard by, and a Juſtice of Peace Sir *Thomas Hewet* ſo called, was at the place of his worſhip, within hearing of the clamour and ſhouting, to whom alſo the ſuffering people ſhewed themſelves in ſuch a pickle, as would have moved any perſon of

common humanity to pitty, and interpose his utmost power, for their rescue; but his answer to their mild complaints was frowns and checks, biding them go for remedy to them that gave them their Liberty; and saying, such usage was as lawful as their Meeting, whereupon the rude rabble took incouragement to abuse them before his face; and that day month being more numerous, they were much more fierce and cruel, striking horse and rider as they came thither, pulling down some and wallowing them in the mire, daubing others with dirt both faces and cloaths, and filling their hats therewith, and clapping them on their heads; and afterward assaulting the place (where neer 300 were met together) with shouting and flinging of stones, they brake down the tiles, boards, windows and walls of the house, and did fling in at the breaches such showers of stones, dirt, rotten eggs, mans dung and water, that few or none could escape the marks of their fury, and they cut off great part of some mens coats, and did tear off a very good scarf from about a womans neck, which still is kept from her, laid some for dead and sorely bruised, and battered others, and so annoyed all with their continual throwing for the space of three hours, that one side of the house being broken down, they were forced to quite the place; and as they attempted to escape were stopped, and not suffered to pass without renewed tokens of inhumanity, for the mad crue neither restrained by authority (the Constables absenting again on purpose, and *Clement Buck* a Churchwarden slighted the admonition of a Justice of Peace there present, who warned him to keep the Peace, and the rest to take heed they did not break it, and was used as courtly as the rest for his pains; and their

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Neighbour Juſtice bearing with (if not abetting) their madneſs, for his men were the firſt that brake in upon them the former Meeting, and one of them was preſent at the latter, incouraging the Tories;) nor their violence reſiſted the harmleſs people taking all patiently, incouragement was taken to act over their cruelties with repeated aggravations, and that without reſpect to Age, Sex or Condition, ſo that aged perſons, children & women with child, fared alike with others; yea, as if nothing could ſatisfie but the lives of the innocent; they did lay in wait and purſue ſome of them with ſtones and dirt almoſt two miles from that place.

Now though it cannot be denied, that this hath been the entertainment the beſt of Gods people have met withal in the world, from the enmity of the ſerpents ſeed, which is alwayes higher, as the Spirit of glory ſhines brighter upon the womans ſeed; and therefore crucified the Lord of Glory. And though it is given to Gods people not onely to believe, but alſo to ſuffer: yet ſeeing that which is done to them is reckoned as done to himſelf, & not knowing what the paſſing by of ſuch an example of violence, eſpecially at this time may produce; for preventing as much as in us lyes (the ſhedding of innocent blood, which pulls down the heavieſt judgements upon a People or Nation that are guilty thereof.) We have laid this foul buſineſs before you, to whom it belongs to do Juſtice, and execute judgement in the midſt of us; and this is not to keep a day unto the Lord, neither are theſe fruits worthy a good Government or a right Reformation, being ſcarce to be found where there is any Government; *Righteouſneſs exalteth a Nation, but ſin is a ſhame for any people.* It is a great ſhame to the Magiſtrate, Miniſter and the whole Nation, that ſuch outrages ſhould be committed, but

much greater that they should be permitted. Look to it therefore O ye Rulers of the Land, and bear your Testimony against such wickedness, least otherwise you appear consenting thereunto, and there be found among you the blood of the poor innocent, and so the fierce anger of the Lord break forth upon you, and there be none to deliver: If the sufferings of the innocent in *France*, *Germany* and *Ireland* are matter of lamentation, with them that have any thing of tenderness and compassion, these cruelties so newly acted, and so very neer, must needs affect you: It is high time to do something to stay the hand of the Lord that is stretched out for such abhominations. This last Tragedy was acted the immediate day before the intended insurrection, and the Actors expressed great confidence of the success thereof, saying, That there is no Parliament, and that King *Charles* would not allow such meetings. You have yet power in your hands to prove them lyars, yea to vindicate your authority [which was trampled upon in this action] and to let them know, there is a Parliament that abhors such barbarisms, and is indeed resolved to defend the honest interest and people of the Nation against all bloody adversaries whatsoever: So will you be a terror to evil doers, and a praise to them that do well, and your hands, and the hands of them that are with you may be strengthened to do excellently for the land of your nativity.

Robert Berd	*John Odel*	*Abel Walton*
Henry Stout	*John Reynolds*	*John Mighel*
John Bresbon	*John Winchester*	*Jeremiah Plummer*
Samuel Rud	*Daniel Halden*	*Thomas Everrard*, &c.
John Goodman	*John Pain*	

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POSTSCRIPT.

Since the writing hereof, one of the persons that was most abused at the above mentioned meeting *John Goodman* by name (one of whose eyes were almost put out in the house, with stones & dirt, wherewith he went bleeding away, and yet was set upon by three of these bloody men who knocked him down, and in likelyhood had taken away his life, but for some women that cryed out and caused them to leave him) hearing they were so far from repenting of their wickedness, that they threatened to deal worse the next oppertunity, had a Justice of Peace his warrant to bring them three, &c. before him or some other Justice in the county, now the Constable willing to gratifie his neighbors, did go with them before *Thomas Hewet* aforesaid, where they were sure to have favour in this case, who (when they were come before him, together with many witnesses and others that came to hear and see how things were carried) asked them what was the matter; *John Goodman* answered, there was cause enough, for he was knocked down, the Justice replyed, if you come for justice, behave your selves as before a Justice [meaning they should be bare] and presently before the said *Goodman* could say any more, the Justice gave the word, and his servants that stood ready, thrust him and them that came with him out of doors; And this was all the right the Justice could afford him, for the wrong he had suffered; Now whether this be to act the part of a Justice of peace, or to minister Justice and true judgement; Let all sober men judge, he hath done very much herein to

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strengthen the hands of evil doers, by justifying the wicked, & condemning the innocent; And as it may well be concluded from whence this barbarous tumult received their incouragement; so it may as easily be known where the blood that might, or hereafter may be shed by this party is chargeable; And whether it be for the honour and safety of the Common-Wealth, that men of bloody principles be continued in commission for the peace in a time of reformation, It is left to the serious consideration of the present Authority of the Nation.

THE END.

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